



Regular Meeting Minutes  
**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

Wednesday, January 4, 2006  
Civic Center Senior Center  
Building 2 – Room # 5  
5:00 P.M.

Present: Chairperson Donn Loper, Commissioners Shelley Anderson, John Faramelli, Bob Frost, Ron King and Ronald D. Petersen.

Absent: Commissioner Dean Cerimeli.

Staff present: Gloria Bianco, Doug Nesselroad, Leslie Clark, John Loleit, Bill Murphy, and Judy Weiss.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Loper called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Chairperson Loper asked everyone to observe a moment of silence.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES –**

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the minutes of the regular Meeting of January 4, 2006 as submitted. Commissioner Faramelli seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Chairperson Loper and all current commissioners introduced themselves to our two new commissioners. Our new commissioners also introduced themselves, and explained their interest in serving on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

As provided for in the Parks & Recreation Commission By-Laws, the Commission shall elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson at the first regularly scheduled meeting each calendar year. The new officers will take office immediately and serve for a term of one year.

Commissioner Shelley Anderson nominated Donn Loper for the office of Chairperson. Commissioner John Faramelli seconded. With no other nominations, Chairperson Loper was elected unanimously to serve as Chairperson for the 2006 year.

Commissioner King nominated Commissioner Anderson for the office of Vice-chair. Judy Weiss, Parks and Recreation Director, clarified that Chairman Loper's term of service on the board is complete in October 2006. His further tenure will be considered by the City Council. If Chairperson Loper does not receive approval for to serve another term, then Commissioner Anderson would assume the office of Chairperson until elections are held.

in January 2007, and a new Vice Chair would need to be selected. Both Chairman Loper and commissioner Anderson understood that this could be a possible scenario.

Commissioner Faramelli seconded. With no other discussion or nominations, Commissioner Anderson was elected unanimously to serve as Vice-chair for the 2006 year.

#### UPDATE ON PINNACLE PEAK PARK

John Loleit, Recreation Coordinator for Pinnacle Peak Park, provided the Park Commission with an annual update of the park, programs and activities.

Mr. Loleit explained that Pinnacle Peak annual budget is \$197,000, which covers programs and maintenance. The parks primary use is for hiking, along with rock climbing and some equestrian. A busy day could bring 2,000 visitors. The main objective is education, including guided hikes, full moon hikes, astronomy talks, wildlife exhibits, and junior ranger programs. A new addition was the Jingle Bell Hike in December, pictures were taken with Santa, and this was met with great success.

A bio-Team of park employees and volunteers are establishing a plant inventory within the parks boundary. At this time there are 77 volunteers who have worked 6,229 hours in 2005. Each volunteer goes through 35 hours of classroom training plus on-the-job training. The volunteers do trail roving, guided hikes, answer phones, trail maintenance, research, and graphics. The park also has the support of the Rotary Club.

Commissioner Anderson asked how does the park manage trail erosion? And runners versus walkers? Mr. Loleit replied that trail maintenance is conducted on Monday mornings with volunteers. Bags of soil are spread to prevent erosion and to stabilize trails. As for runners on the trail with hikers, there is constant communication, with volunteers and staff educating the runners.

Commissioner Anderson asked if it would have been helpful to have a second trail for the runners, and mention the possibility of packing in soil on mules. Mr. Loleit replied that there were pullouts on the trails originally. Now, with use, the trails are naturally widening, in some areas it is now 6 to 7 feet wide. Commissioner Anderson asked if there were any plans for new trails. Mr. Loleit replied that there are no plans for new trails. Commissioner Anderson inquired if there were any situations where the park would not allow runners. Mr. Loleit replied maybe.

Commissioner Frost asked that in the future when the park does update the operations plan, that the Commission be able to review it and make comments. Commissioner Faramelli asked how many volunteers have gone through the parks educational programs. Mr. Loleit replied that approximately 650 people (500 day, 150 evening) attended programs. The park is limited to 12 programs after hours. Commissioner Faramelli asked how many people used the park this year. Mr. Loleit said 187,000 visitors in 2005 since the park opened approx 600,000 visitors.

Commissioner King asked if parks staff interfaced with the preservation staff. Mr. Loleit replied that there is an exchange of ideas with our preservation department. Commissioner King asked why there is not a bike trail. Mr. Loleit replied that the trails are not wide enough which would make it unsafe.

Commissioner Anderson asked if there is any thought to having a maximum number of people on the trail at one time. Mr. Loleit replied yes this could happen in the future. He approximates this number might be 1500 visitors. Ms. Weiss commented that the parking lot is a natural limiting factor. There are only 50 parking spaces.

Chairperson Loper wanted to know do all the volunteers go through 35 hours of training and who does the training. Mr. Loleit replied that all training is done in house and is provided by staff. They are provided with guided hikes, given classes on interpretive skills and public speaking, and volunteer guest speakers are provided for special interest areas.

## INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SUPPORT ORGANIZATION, THE FRIENDS OF PINNACLE PEAK PARK

Morrie Chernis, the Chair for the Friends of Pinnacle Peak Park presented the history, mission, and development of this not-for-profit organization and their goals to support the efforts of Pinnacle Peak Park.

The concept for the Friends of Pinnacle Peak developed soon after the opening of the park to cultivate public enthusiasm and to expand the park's potential for education.

The initial mission was to educate patrons about the fragility of the Sonoran Desert, to distribute educational material, to enhance training and recognition for volunteers, and to publish a Friends Newsletter.

Friends of Pinnacle Peak was incorporated in November of 2003; fund raising began in July 2005; an operational agreement with the City of Scottsdale was signed and the board was established in December of 2005.

Commissioner Anderson asked if the funds would be used for maintenance of the park. Mr. Chernis replied that funds could be used to replant the area if it is deemed as appropriate.

Commissioner Anderson asked if a person wanted to make a donation, would they be able to choose where their donation would be used? Mr. Chernis said they haven't gotten that far yet in planning. That answer might be obtainable from the operations and maintenance manual.

Ms. Weiss noted that the city can take donations, and there is a sponsorship policy for naming rights. That could happen if there is a donor.

Commissioner Frost asked if the operational agreement was approved by the city. Ms. Weiss replied that our General Manager signed this agreement. Commissioner Frost also congratulated the group, and their accomplishments.

Chairperson Loper was concerned that there might be conflict between what the city employees are doing and what the FOPP will be doing. Anyone acting in official capacity would be viewed as a city employee. Ms. Weiss replied that John Loleit would work very closely with the board to establish procedures. The city has ultimate approval over all that goes on. This will be a growing relationship between the board, the volunteers, and the employees.

Commissioner Loper asked whether volunteers would ever replace the employee force. Ms. Weiss replied that there might be some initial "tripping". But the Park operation has been up and running for nearly four years, and City responsibilities are clear. The FOPP can fill in the gaps

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF CURRENT EVENTS (A.R.S. § 38-431.02(K))

Judy Weiss, Parks and Recreation Director, updated the Commission on the continuing construction of McDowell Mountain Ranch Park and Aquatic Center. Cactus Pool is closed for re-decking this month. Commissioner Frost asked if there was there a guarantee on the pool deck, and Ms. Weiss replied all warranties have been exhausted. Bill Murphy, Parks and Grounds Director updated the commission the north field at Eldorado Park has been renovated. The infield at Supai Middle School has been re-sod. Grounds Maintenance is maintaining 10 school sites now. Scottsdale Stadium is due to be ready February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006. Chairperson Loper asked if the Giants representatives have given any feedback regarding all the improvements to the stadium, Mr. Murphy replied that the Giants do have a representative that comes down frequently and we have received good feedback from them. He suggested board members avail themselves of the stadium newsletter to stay updated, and check the website. Ms. Weiss noted that it is getting down to last minute for buying pool tiles for \$50. Holiday lights at McCormick Stillman Railroad Park had an amazing year with 33,500 visitors. This set a new record, exceeding \$150,000 in revenue for one month. The City Council Meeting on Mescal Park concerning lights in the arena and riding in the grass basin is on February 7 2006.

The next meeting is in the Kiva at City Hall. Arcadia Soccer club is to do lights on the soccer fields. Public testimony will be taken on the lights issue. The city's half is \$175,000. Arcadia will be coming up with the other half. On that agenda also is the Yavapai project.

Ms. Weiss asked if a study session would be appropriate for 4:30 before the next commission meeting. It was decided by unanimous vote to have the study session. Chairman Loper explained that city staff goes to great effort to promote programs. During the past year, commission attendance was not as good as it could have been. The study session is to talk about upcoming programs and to try to have one or more commissioners attend those events. Commissioner Anderson stated that in previous years, commissioners would take issues and split up among the commissioners to attend programs and to discuss. Ms. Weiss said that could be added to the agenda.

Commissioner Anderson commented that the water treatment center near Chaparral Park is really large, and asked if the department has had any input from public. Mr. Murphy replied that we refer these questions to the Capital Projects/Water Department staff. He went on to add that once some other amenities are added, the scale would not seem so large. Ms. Weiss said that some awnings, etc. would be added to soften the look of the building.

Commissioner Frost said that the staff report says meaningful participation is one of the 7 developmental needs. What are the others? Ms. Clark replied that there are actually 40. Commissioner Frost said that the Parks & Recreation Magazine says that Scottsdale is in top 100 cities to raise children. He congratulated the city.

#### OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC (A.R.S. § 38-431.02)

Chairperson Loper called for any items from the floor or the Commission. There were none.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Faramelli seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

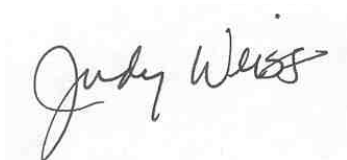
With no further business to be brought before the Commission, Chairperson Loper adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Bates, Recording Secretary

Meets established criteria.

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Meets established criteria.



Judy Weiss, Director  
Parks and Recreation



William B. Murphy, Director  
Parks and Grounds Management